

With regard to our own farmers, I cannot help but emphasize—even though the Minister of Agriculture may be sick of listening to these things which have been stated many times, I do not think we can reiterate them too strongly—the necessity of our farm people having the opportunity to obtain for themselves short term loans and credits through a special agricultural bank, something like the farm security administration in the United States, which has been responsible for such a tremendous increase of food from the smaller types of farms.

Without the shadow of a doubt I believe that our farming people should be guaranteed not only by the federal government but by the provincial governments security of tenure on their land, so that, instead of looking forward only a year or two ahead, they will begin to plan for a long future, in order that the people on the farms can have a stake in the whole rehabilitation programme of Canada in the era of peace.

Undoubtedly the machine problem is a difficult one to solve. In the areas where we have the smaller farming districts which are engaged in mixed farming it is not sufficient for the government to allow a certain quota of machines to be sold. The man who has a farm of a certain size, and the ability to buy a machine, is not always the person who should have it. We would find it of greater value to have certain new machines placed in machinery pools; many farmers would then be in a position to hire a machine, which in many instances could be used on many more farms than a machine purchased by one man. In the smaller mixed farming areas machinery pools and machinery repair depots should be set up under the care of the federal government and its jurisdiction. Repair depots are just as essential as supply depots, because much of the old machinery will still be available. The great difficulty at the present time is the lack of repair centres.

Then there is the question of floors and ceilings on all agricultural products, with a guarantee of at least two or three years in the future. It cannot be denied that that is something which the farmers are seeking before they go into any increased production, particularly of live stock, with any degree of certainty.

The representation of farmers on marketing boards has been dealt with by the two hon. members who preceded me. I can only say that I am in agreement with what they have said. Definitely the farmers themselves are only too anxious to cooperate in all these matters of marketing, but they have in large measure been left out of the discussion on

[Mrs. Nielsen.]

marketing boards, and for that reason I believe they feel that there are many things in connection with marketing which are not just as they should be. They feel that they have many suggestions to offer which I am sure the Minister of Agriculture would find to be not only to the farmers good but to the general good of agricultural production.

I should like to emphasize—and I believe the minister is in agreement with this—the necessity for the extension of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act to cover the whole of the dominion. In the rehabilitation period, when we have the returned men taking up farming again, and are considering the problem of the best areas for the production of certain kinds of food, I believe there will be the necessity for moving certain of our farmers from sub-marginal lands and leaving those areas for grazing and reforestation. Our farmers are justified in asking that in the processing of foods there will be more government supervision through greater control of the middleman. Amongst the farmers of western Canada there is resentment because they realize there is an appreciable difference between the prices paid for their raw products and the prices asked for the product which is placed on the market after passing through the hands of one or two middlemen. Definitely there should be an investigation in this sphere to limit or to hold down at least the profits of the middleman. To assure a fair share of the prices to the producer would be something to give satisfaction to the farming people.

I do not feel that any thing should be emphasized more than the necessity for planning and giving to the farmers a clearer understanding of what is to be required of them in the future. The resentment which is still felt—and I urge upon the minister that he realize that this resentment exists in western Canada—is based on the fact that the farmers do not know soon enough ahead of time what is to be required of them. The hesitancy which has been part of their whole attitude toward increased agricultural production would thereby be removed.

When we come to the peace period and thousands of men are being returned to the farms, definitely we should have further provision made for farm labourers. Farm labourers should come under the unemployment insurance provisions, so that we may guarantee to them a definite standard of living and make them feel that their job is to be well paid and recognized as a part of the great industrial development of this country.

These are matters which I believe more than any other are important to the development